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**QUESTION: Why was Quanzhou such an important site of encounter**

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| **ANSWER** | **EVIDENCE** | **ANALYSIS (how does this help answer the question?)** |
| *Marco Polo (Trade)* | “All the merchandise imported, including precious stone and pearls…pepper…lignaloes…sandalwood | Shows the vast quantity of luxury goods that were available for trade in Quanzhou and had a large demand in other parts of the world. |
| *Marco Polo (Cultural Diffusion)* | “There is a great abundance here of all provisions for life’s necessities. It is a charming country, and the people are very quiet and fond of an easy life.” | The culture of the people in Quanzhou made it so that people from around the world wanted to travel there because they felt comfortable and able to live a decent life while in Guanzhou |
| *IBN Battuta (Trade)* | “China is rich in resources, fruits, cereals, gold, and silver, no other clime in the world compares with it in this respect” | China had the most valuable of all materials to trade and were in high demand by other cultures, resulting in foreign merchants traveling to China to trade |
| *IBN Battuta (Cultural Diffusion)* | In every city of China is a quarter where the Muslims live separately and have mosques for their Friday prayers and other assemblies. They are highly regarded and treated with respect. | Through trade, Muslims have established settlements in Guanzhou, bringing their religion. The Chinese were very tolerant and accepting of other cultures and religions making it a place that other cultures would seek out to travel to and trade with. |
| *China (Trade)* | The Customs at Canton and Quanzhou derive an annual revenue of several tens of thousands of strings of cash from the trade carried on in this product by foreign ships | This observation shows that trade was massively important in China, because they had an entire section of the government devoted to it. The city of Guanzhou also brought it a lot of money through trade, much of done with foreigners from the Middle East. |
| *China (Cultural Diffusion)* | There was a foreign merchant name Shinawei…he had the customs of the western lands [Islam] he established a graveyard outside the city walls to the southeast where the bodies of foreign merchants could be buried… | There was a large enough population of foreigners, in this case Muslims, that it called for a graveyard for them when they died, thus showing the immense amount of cultural interaction in Guanzhou |